## News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Thursday, August 10, 2006

## **West Nile Virus Fever Found in Fremont County Woman**

CHEYENNE – A Fremont County woman has been diagnosed with West Nile virus fever, making her the second infected resident and first case with symptoms in the state for 2006, according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease that can cause a potentially serious illness in humans. Mosquitoes spread the virus after they feed on infected birds and then bite people, other birds and animals.

The woman, who is recovering, first experienced symptoms in late July. Symptoms included fever, rash, fatigue and body aches.

"It's very important that Wyoming residents take steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites at this point in the summer season," said Kelly Weidenbach, surveillance epidemiologist for the Wyoming Department of Health.

The department reported earlier this week that WNV infection was detected during routine blood donor screening of a Natrona County man without symptoms. Last year 12 human cases were identified in Wyoming with two deaths. There were 393 human cases in 2003.

The Wyoming Public Health Laboratory has tested 113 humans for West Nile virus so far this year. As of August 7, two horses and no birds have tested positive for the disease in Wyoming for 2006. The WNV-positive horses were from Campbell and Fremont counties.

Human cases have previously been identified this year in most surrounding states. As of August 1, the Centers for Disease Control reports 19 cases in Idaho, 2 cases in Utah, 3 cases in Colorado, 2 cases in Nebraska and 13 cases in South Dakota.

More information on preventing West Nile virus is available on the web at www.badskeeter.org or by calling the West Nile virus hotline at: 1-877-WYO-BITE.

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